

No. 1, Sept. 9, 4 eggs. Oct. 10, 4 young. Nov. 11, young had left nest but were in trees close by.
 No. 2, Sept. 9, 1 egg. Oct. 13, 2 eggs, 1 young. Nov. 2, 1 live and 1 dead young in nest.
 No. 3, Oct. 4, 3 eggs. Oct. 14, 3 eggs. Oct. 25, 1 egg, 2 young. Nov. 2, 2 young. Nov. 6, 1 young. Nov. 9, no young.
 No. 4, Sept. 1, 3 eggs. Oct. 10, 1 egg, 2 young. Oct. 25, 3 young. Nov. 2, 3 young.
 No. 5, Sept. 13, 1 egg. Sept. 15, 2 eggs. Sept. 17, 3 eggs. Oct. 9, 3 young. Oct. 20, 3 young. Nov. 2, flown.
 No. 6, Oct. 10, 3 young. Nov. 2, young flown. Nov. 7, 3 young birds seen in area.
 No. 7, Sept. 19, 4 eggs. Oct. 6, 4 young. Oct. 20, 1 young. Oct. 27, 1 young.
 No. 8, Nov. 2, young—high nest, not inspected.

It will be seen from these records that of seven nests containing a total of 23 eggs, only a maximum of 15 young birds (65%) could have left. On October 20, when I visited nest No. 7, three of the four young birds had disappeared. One of these (?) was found hanging in a fork two feet from the ground, and 30 yards from the nest. Its entrails were hanging out, but there was no sign of any flesh having been removed. From my experience in northern and south-western Australia of the Grey Butcher-bird this method of dealing with its victim is typical of the species (see also E. H. Sedgwick, *Emu*, vol. 47, 1947, p. 68, and Serventy and Whittell, *Handbook of the Birds of W.A.*, 1951, p. 360). As far as I know this technique is not used by any other species in this area. Cracks in timber are often utilised, but the principle is the same—the victim is hung by the neck and the flesh is torn from the body while it is usually held by the head. However, I have never seen a "viee" so close to the ground before. In this instance the young bird must have been removed from the nest but whether it was dead or alive at the time of removal I do not know. It had, apparently, been dead for a few days when I found it, as the surviving bird in the nest was much more advanced. I visited the nest again on October 27 and found that the young bird hung in the fork had disappeared.

—ANGUS ROBINSON, "Yanjettee," Coolup.

Unusual Bird Records in 1955.—During 1955 a number of interesting observations were made, all but one being in the Swan River district. These are set out below.

March 30. Two Royal Spoonbills (*Platalea leucorodia*) were seen feeding with 7 White Egrets (*Egretta alba*) on the samphire flats at the eastern end of the Perth Causeway.

June 2. A Diamond Dove (*Geopelia cuneata*) was seen at Butler's Swamp, Claremont. The white wing spots and red around its eye were clearly evident. Though this northern species in its occasional wanderings south has been reported from various parts of the South-West, this is the first record from the Swan River district.

July 2. A party of 16 Dusky Woodswallows (*Artamus cyanopterus*) was seen at the northern end of Lake Coolbellup on the Yanchep road.

July 31. A Restless Flycatcher (*Seisura inquieta*) was noted in flight by the edge of the Great Northern Highway 2 miles north

of Pearee. The grinding call was strongly given throughout the time the bird was watched.

August 28. Three White-naped Honeyeaters (*Melithreptus lunatus*) were seen in the University grounds, Nedlands, where the species was previously recorded in 1953 (W.A. Nat., vol. 4, p. 93).

October 11. A Hooded Dotterel (*Charadrius cucullatus*), in adult plumage, was seen at Pelican Point, on the Swan River estuary.

October 16. An Owlet Nightjar (*Aegotheles cristatus*) was flushed from a paperbark tree at Lake Bambun. The time was 1530 hours. The bird sat tightly and did not fly until approached closely.

November 4. A pure white Curlew Sandpiper (*Erolia testacea*) were seen at Pelican Point in a mixed flock of Curlew Sandpipers and Little Stints. There was no trace of colouring in the bird's plumage. It had red legs and a reddish-brown beak. The eye colour was not observed.

November 26. Six Gull-billed Terns (*Gelochelidon nilotica*) were seen feeding over a shallow salt lake $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles west of Moora. A peculiar diving action characterised them. The birds flew at 20-30 feet, and, on sighting food would dive head first, as most terns do. However, at about 3 feet above the water the birds drew out of the dive and settled on the water tail first, picking up the food with the bill. They were watched with a pair of 10 x 40 binoculars from a distance of 80-100 feet. The short black bill was clearly noted.

—ERIC LINDGREN, Nedlands.

The Jewel Beetle, *Stigmodera (Castiarina) magnetica* Cart.—Glauert (W.A. Nat., 1948, vol. I, pp. 129-130) discusses the status of the jewel beetle *Stigmodera (Castiarina) magnetica* Cart., which is stated to be rare and apparently restricted to a very limited area. The beetle is only known to occur on the coastal shrub *Myoporum insulare* R.Br., and had, at the time of Mr. Glauert's article, been collected only at Mudurup Rocks (the type locality) and at Swanbourne.

The note stimulated us to search for the insect and considerable numbers have been collected from seven localities during the past five years. The localities, collectors and numbers were as follows:

Quinn's Rocks	S.B.,	1955,	27
Wanneru	R.P.M.,	1952,	2
North Beach	R.P.M.,	1955,	2
Wembley Beach	R.P.M.,	1955,	4
Swanbourne	J.A.L.W.,	1955,	22
Leighton	S.B.,	1955,	23
Safety Bay	R.P.M.,	1950,	2

The beetles may be present for a considerable period, the earliest record being from Quinn's Rocks on September 24, and the latest on December 14 from Safety Bay. During continual observation at Swanbourne, the beetles were present for at least